

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /105 W
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P R 071155Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5731

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CINCPAC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 6213

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LPF PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 7

1. LPF DELEGATION VIENTIANE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER-
NOON SEPTEMBER 7. PHOUN SIPRASEUTH, SUBSTITUTING FOR
PHOUMI VONGVICHIT WHO WAS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER,
FIRST TOOK THIRTY MINUTES TO READ A NINE-PAGE
PREPARED DECLARATION FROM THE LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE CON-
CERNING THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS. DECLARATION WAS
PRINCIPALLY A REHASH OF FAMILIAR LPF LINE AND PROBABLY
WAS PREPARED IN SAM NEUA SOME TIME AGO. MAIN POINTS OF
DECLARATION OUTLINED PARAGRAPH THREE BELOW.

2. FOLLOWING READING OF DECLARATION, PHOUN TOOK QUESTIONS
FROM APPROXIMATELY 40 LAO AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS PRESENT.

(A) RE ENUTRALIZATION OF CAPITALS, HE WAS ASKED
HOW MANY TROOPS FROM THE VIENTIANE SIDE SHOULD BE WITH-
DRAWN FROM TWO CITIES. PHOUN STATED THAT PROTOCOLS WILL
STIPULATE HOW MANY FORCES CAN REMAIN IN THE CITIES, BUT
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PROCEDURES FOR THE WITHDRAWAL SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AFTER

THE PROTOCOLS ARE SIGNED.

(B) IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, PHOUN CONFIRMED THAT LAST NIGHT SOME MEMBERS OF LPF DELEGATION HAD DINNER WITH THE SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE, WHO HAD ALSO INVITED GENERALS FROM THE VIENTIANE SIDE. PHOUN SAID THAT MEETING GAVE BOTH SIDES "OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS REGARDING PROTOCOLS." HE ADDED THAT RLG GENERALS SEEMED GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE PROTOCOLS AND EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR SOUVANNA PHOUMA. ASKED WHETHER HIS OPTIMISTIC COMMENTS ABOUT THE MEETING MEANT THAT THE PROTOCOLS CAN BE SIGNED SOON, PHOUN SAID HE WAS NOT SURE IF THE GENERALS WERE TRULY SINCERE; BUT, IF THEY WERE, PROTOCOLS COULD BE INITIALLED SOON.

(C) ASKED WHETHER PHENG AND PHOUMI WILL MEET AGAIN TO DISCUSS THE PROTOCOLS, PHOUN DECLARED "THERE IS NOTHING FURTHER TO DISCUSS REGARDING THE CONTENT OF THE PROTOCOLS; ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO SIGN THE PROTOCOLS."

3. DECLARATION LISTS PRINCIPAL POINTS OF PROTOCOL (INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR PWS/MIAS), BUT STRONGLY DENOUNCES U.S. AND RLG (AS WELL AS SANANIKONES AND THAIS) FOR BLOCKING THE SIGNING OF PROTOCOL AFTER LPF HAD MADE THREE VITAL CONCESSIONS (I.E., REDUCING NUMBER OF STAKES TO BE PLACED BETWEEN OPPOSING FORCES; OMITTING RANKING OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS; AND WITHDRAWING MENTION BY NAME OF U.S. PROVIDING POST-WAR ASSISTANCE TO LAOS). IT CHARGES SOUVANNA RENEGED ON HIS AUGUST 24 WRITTEN ACCEPTANCE OF LPF CONCESSIONS AND CALLS ON RLG TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL IMMEDIATELY ON THE BASIS OF THE JULY 27 TEXT, AS AMENDED BY CHANGES AGREED THROUGH AUGUST 24. DECLARATION CLEARLY ASSERTS (AS PHOUN ALSO DID IN QUESTION PERIOD) THAT LPF ENVISIONS NO FURTHER CHANGES IN PROTOCOL.
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